YES.
THOSE ARE THE RULERS' SOLDIERS.
WELL, WHY DO THOSE DAMN RULERS...
...KEEP SENDING US BEASTS?

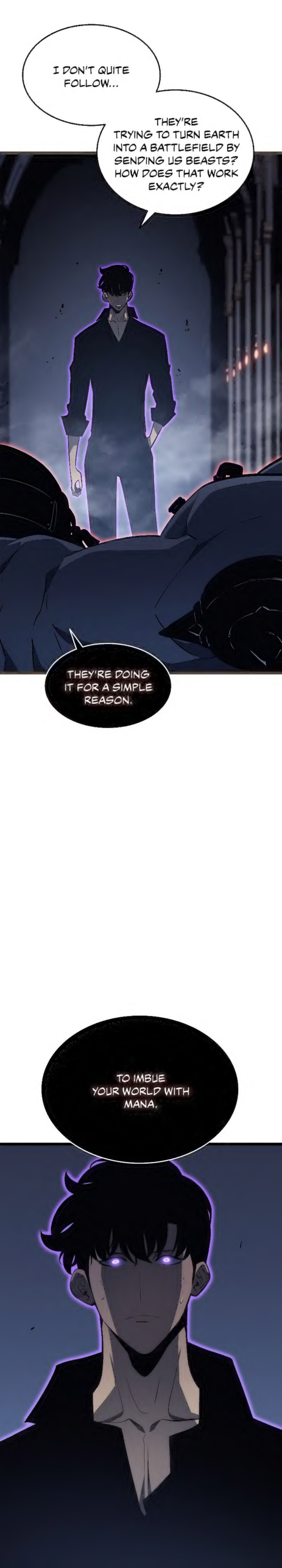
Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

138

LIKE I SAID,
THEY'RE PREPARING
FOR WAR.

THEY WISH TO TURN
THIS WORLD INTO A
BATTLEFIELD AND FIGHT
AGAINST THE MONARCHS
ONCE MORE.


I DON'T QUITE FOLLOW...
THEY'RE TRYING TO TURN EARTH INTO A BATTLEFIELD BY SENDING US BEASTS? HOW DOES THAT WORK EXACTLY?
THEY'RE DOING IT FOR A SIMPLE REASON.
TO IMBUE YOUR WORLD WITH MANA.

WHILE MAGIC BEASTS THAT EMERGE FROM THE GATES ARE VIEWED AS A CURSE,

THE MANA THAT COMES OUT OF THE GATES IS VIEWED AS A BLESSING.

MANY PEOPLE SHARE THIS BELIEF, NOT JUST HUNTERS.
OBJECTS THAT CONTAIN MANA, SUCH AS MANA CRYSTALS AND ESSENCE STONES...
...ARE CURRENTLY THE GREATEST SOURCES OF ENERGY IN THE WORLD.

BUT THE RULERS WERE USING THEM TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A WAR?

THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO PROPAGATE POWER THAT DOESN'T EXIST THAN TO USE THE BLOOD OF THOSE WHO POSSESS THAT POWER.
THAT IS WHY THE RULERS DECIDED TO USE THEIR PRISONERS OF WAR.
THE DENSITY OF MANA IS GROWING BY THE DAY.
YOU COULD SAY THEY HAVE CULTIVATED A FIELD FERTILIZED BY THE BLOOD OF MAGIC BEASTS... AND ARE READY TO REAP THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR.

MANA STRENGTHENS THE WORLD.
SO THEY PLAN TO CREATE A WORLD THAT CANNOT BE DESTROYED BY THE SHOCK OF WAR.

BY WAR, DO YOU MEAN...?
A REMATCH BETWEEN THE MONARCHS AND THE RULERS

BEFORE LONG, YOUR WORLD WILL TURN INTO A LIVING HELL.

THERE IS NO TIME.

ONCE WORD OF OUR MEETING GETS OUT, BOTH THE MONARCHS AND THE RULERS WILL NO LONGER JUST STAND BY AND WATCH.

IN FACT, ENVOYS OF THE RULERS MAY ALREADY BE ON THE MOVE.

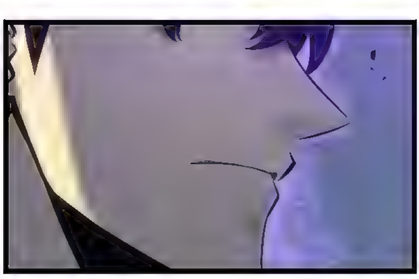
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?

THE POWER THAT YOU POSSESS IS NOT ACTUALLY YOURS.

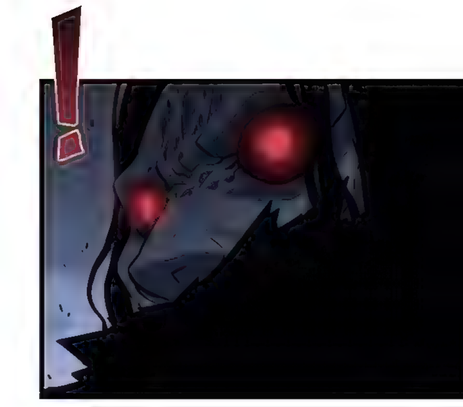
THE FACT THAT SUCH POWER WAS GIVEN TO YOU MEANS ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER BETRAYED THE OTHER MONARCHS.

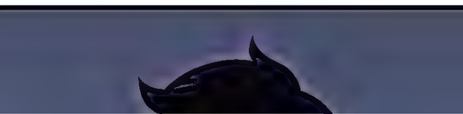
YOU HAVE BECOME AN ENEMY OF BOTH THE MONARCHS AND THE RULERS.

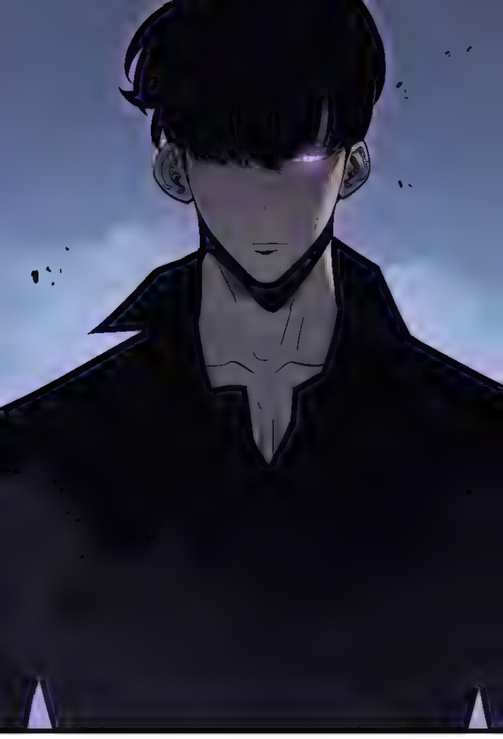
HOWEVER,
I ALONE SWEAR TO
FIGHT ALONGSIDE
YOU.
SO WON'T YOU
HELP ME?



IF YOU SIMPLY WISH TO STAND WITH ME, THEN WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO BECOME ONE OF MY SHADOW SOLDIERS?



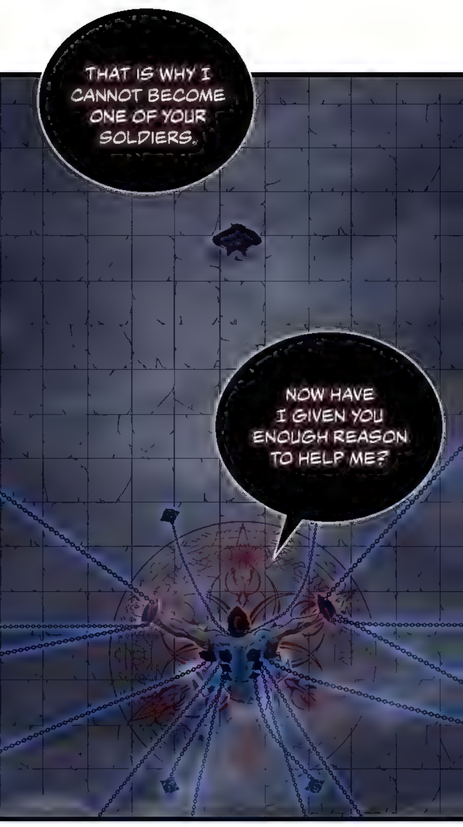




WHAT WAS THAT...? FOR A SECOND THERE, I SAW...

MONARCHS AND RULERS HAVE ASTRAL BODIES...

...THAT ARE DESTROYED UPON DEATH, SO THEY CANNOT BE TURNED INTO SHADOWS.


THAT IS WHY I CANNOT BECOME ONE OF YOUR SOLDIERS.
NOW HAVE I GIVEN YOU ENOUGH REASON TO HELP ME?

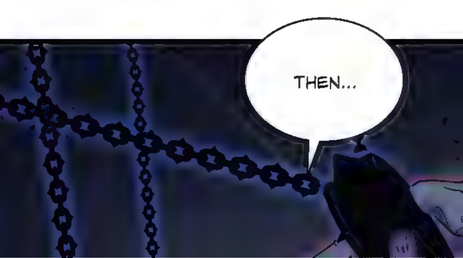
I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION NOW.
BUT WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY?
ZZT
ZZT
I MUST'VE... OVERLOOKED SOMETHING.

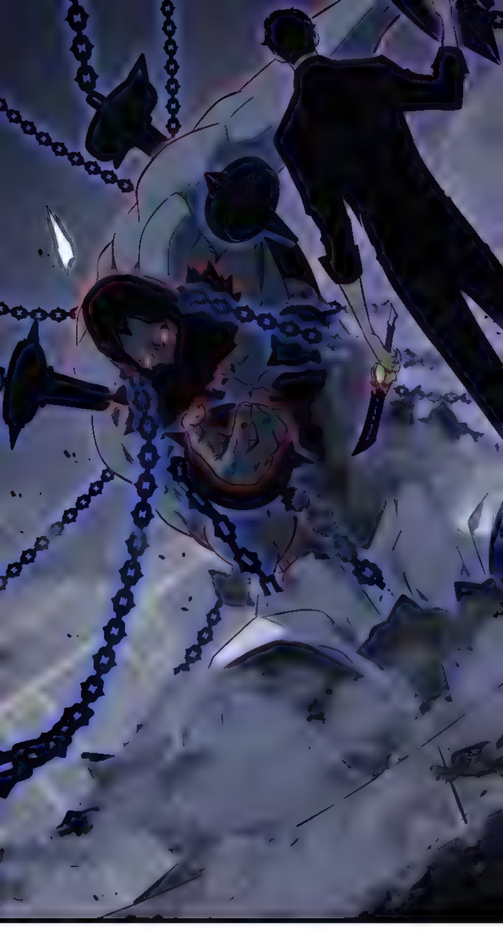
RELEASE ME FROM THESE CHAINS.
STEP

YOU SAID YOU'D STAND BY MY SIDE, RIGHT?
YES, OF COURSE.

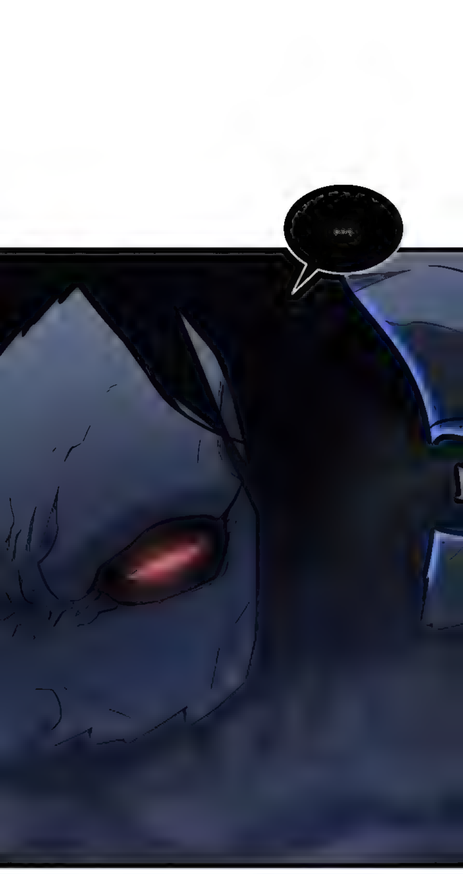
IF YOU HELP ME, I SHALL RETURN THE FAVOR.
CLANK
THIS IS A FAIR AND COMPLETE DEAL BETWEEN TWO MONARCHS.

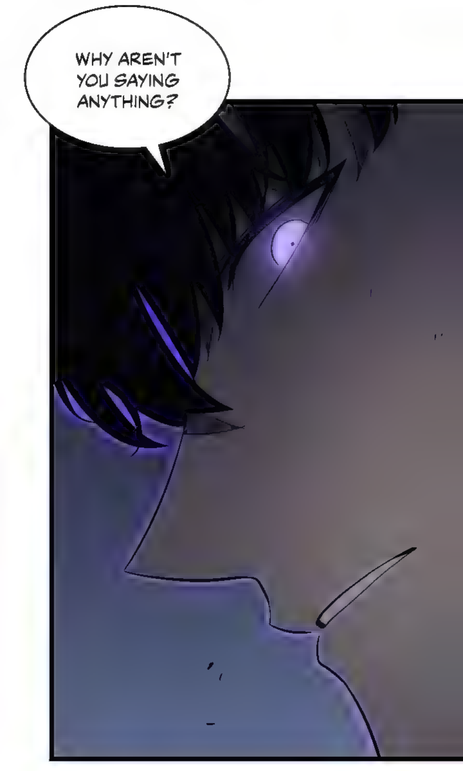
FOR A SPLIT SECOND, I THOUGHT I SAW HIM... WAS I JUST HALLUCINATING?

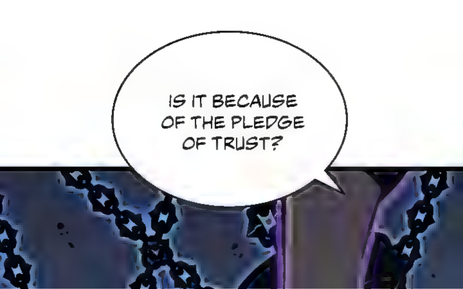

THEN...



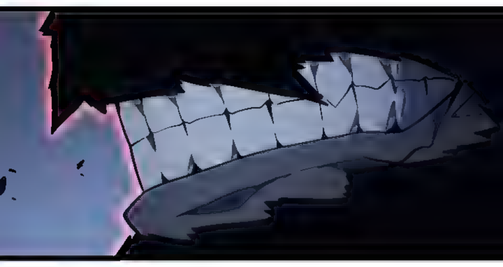
...DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL STAND WITH HUMANITY?

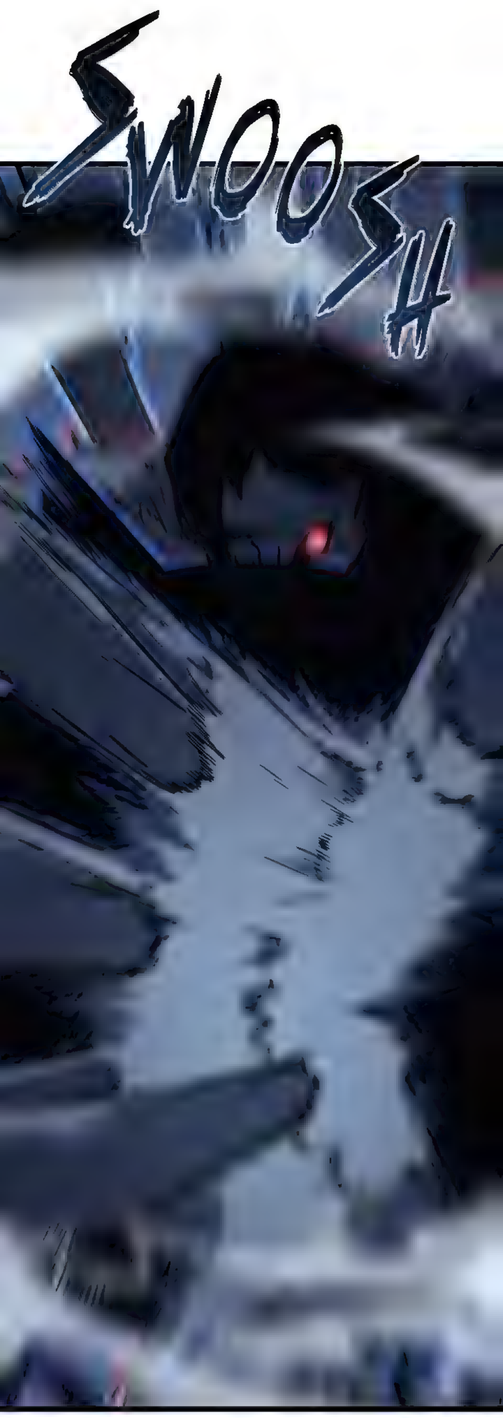



WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING?


IS IT BECAUSE OF THE PLEDGE OF TRUST?

THAT ESSENCE STONE ON THE BACK OF YOUR NECK...
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT, YOU'LL HEAR THE VOICES OF THE RULERS.
YOU'RE BEING TOLD TO "KILL THE HUMANS," RIGHT? JUST LIKE THE OTHER BEASTS ARE...



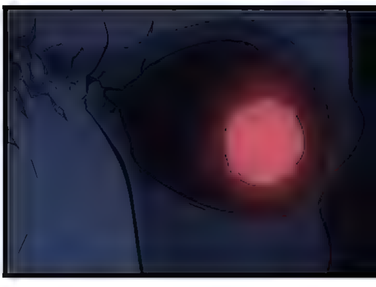

SWOOSH

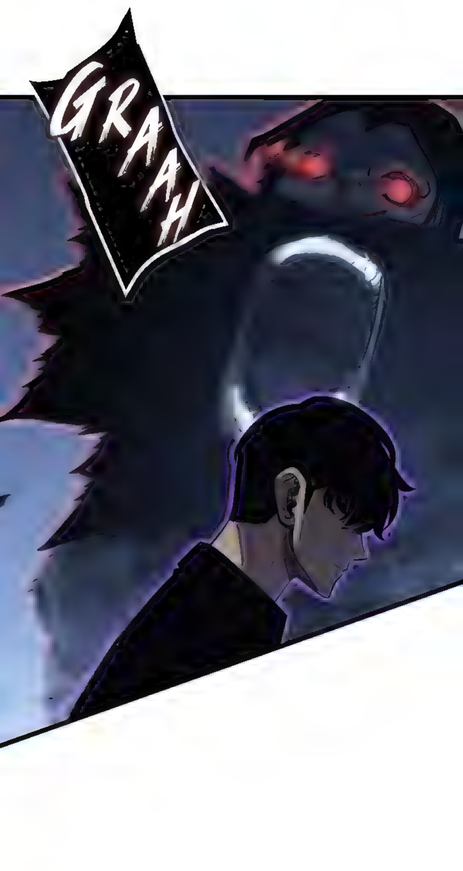
I'M CALLING OFF OUR DEAL.

I CAN'T LET YOU LIVE... YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A RISK.
URGH!
STAB

YOU
MIGHT CAUSE A
CALAMITY.

NO... YOU'RE WRONG.
I AM NOT A CALAMITY... YOU ARE.




GRAAH

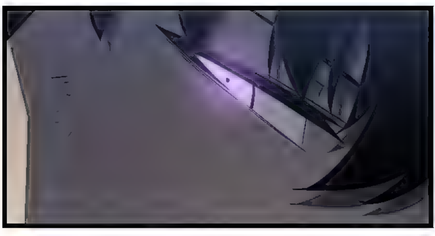
SLASH
SLASH
SLASH
KHOFF

SWOOSH

STAB
STAB
STAB
STAB

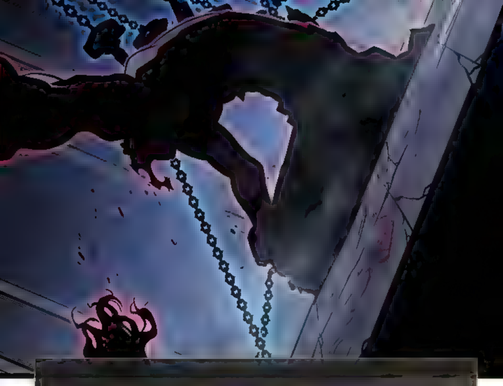
KHOFF
AS THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE HUMAN RACE AND THE CAPTURED DENIZENS OF CHAOS ESCALATES,
THE WORLD WILL TRANSFORM FURTHER AND FURTHER INTO A BLOODY BATTLEFIELD.

I PRAY...
...THAT ALL YOU WISH TO PROTECT IS BURNED TO ASHES BY THE HELLFIRES OF WAR.



THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

SLICE



[YOU HAVE DEFEATED THE DUNGEON BOSS.]

[YOU HAVE DEFEATED ONE OF THE NINE MONARCHS, THE MONARCH OF THE BEGINNING, "LEGIA."]

[CALCULATING EXP...]

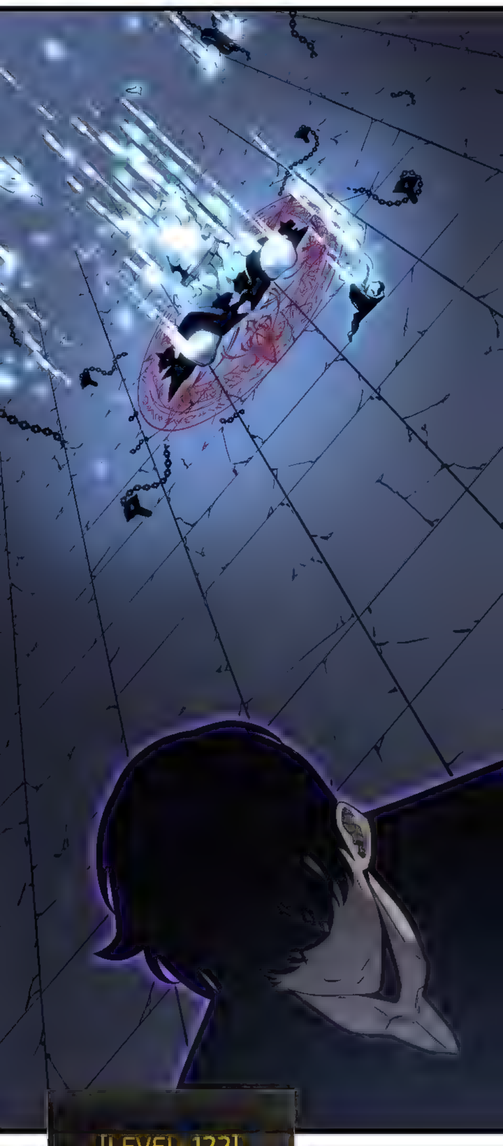
[YOU HAVE EARNED A LARGE AMOUNT OF EXP. THE CALCULATION MAY TAKE A WHILE.]

IT'S TOO BAD I WON'T GET A SHADOW SOLDIER...

BUT I'LL TAKE THIS AS MY PRIZE.

[LEVEL UP!]
[LEVEL UP!]
[LEVEL UP!]
[LEVEL UP!]
[LEVEL UP!]

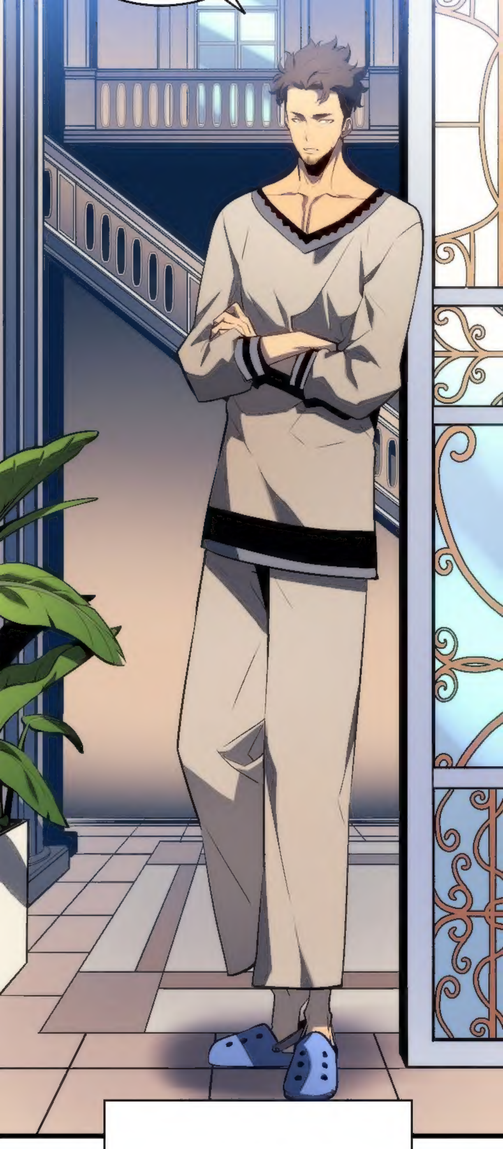
[LEVEL UP!]
[LEVEL UP!]
[LEVEL UP!]



[LEVEL: 122]

CHKA
CHKA

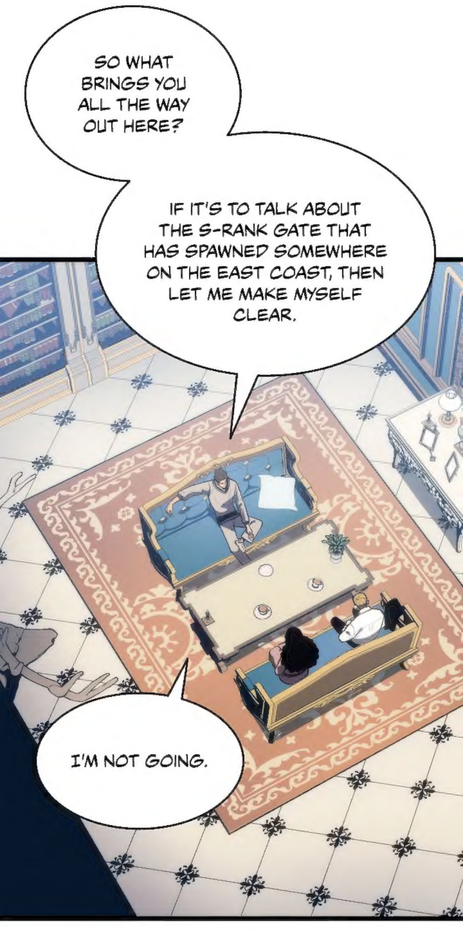
I WASN'T EXPECTING ANY VISITORS TODAY.



NATIONAL LEVEL HUNTER
CHRISTOPHER REED

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR.
YOU TOO, MS. SELNER.
I HAVE SOMETHING URGENT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU. WOULD YOU MIND ASKING EVERYONE TO LEAVE?

DON'T LET ANYONE NEAR MY ROOM UNTIL THE TWO OF THEM HAVE LEFT.
UNDERSTOOD, SIR.


SO WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
IF IT'S TO TALK ABOUT THE S-RANK GATE THAT HAS SPAWNED SOMEWHERE ON THE EAST COAST, THEN LET ME MAKE MYSELF CLEAR.
I'M NOT GOING.

SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS THAN AN S-RANK GATE?

To Be Continued...

Translator: JJoelle

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